

A photograph of two cardinals perched on a snow-laden pine branch. The male cardinal is bright red with a black face mask and a pointed crest, perched higher on the branch. The female cardinal is a muted olive-brown with a red crest and a black face mask, perched lower. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue sky with falling snow.

*Come,
let us reason
together*

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American Lutheran Church (ALC)

215 Ninth Street SE • Long Prairie, Minnesota

Pastor Ethan Fearing • 732-2932

americanlutheranchurch.org

✦ Please stand as you are able. WOV: *With One Voice*, the blue hymn book.

LBW: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, the green hymn book.

Prelude Music

We prepare our hearts for worship.

Welcome and the Sharing of God's Peace

✦ Confession and Forgiveness

Page 56 LBW

PASTOR: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

PASTOR: Almighty God, to Whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

PASTOR: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for personal reflection.

PASTOR: Most merciful God...

ALL: ...we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart: we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

Announcement of forgiveness.

♪ Opening Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

#649 WOV

PASTOR: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

♪ The Kyrie, a Prayer for Mercy

PASTOR: In peace, let us pray to the LORD.

ALL: LORD, have mercy.

PASTOR: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the LORD.

ALL: LORD, have mercy.

PASTOR: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the LORD.

ALL: LORD, have mercy.

PASTOR: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the LORD.

ALL: LORD, have mercy.

PASTOR: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious LORD.

ALL: Amen!

♪ Hymn of Praise

PASTOR: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth!

ALL: LORD God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, LORD God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

♪ A Hopeful Blessing

PASTOR: The LORD be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

ALL: Almighty God, as we grow in our relationship with You, we also learn about ourselves. Help us to see Your plans for us, energize us with Your love, and guide us in the new and eternal life You so freely give! Amen.

First Reading

Leviticus 18:1-5

Psalm 85:7-11, 13

READER: 7 Show us Your unfailing love, O LORD;
save us now and forever!

**ALL: 8 We listen carefully to God,
to what the LORD is saying.**

We know that He speaks peace to His faithful people.

READER: But we must not return to our former ways,
to our foolish ways.

ALL: 9 God's salvation is near to those who respect Him.

It's true – we will be filled with His glory!

READER: 10 Unfailing love and truth have met together.
Righteousness and peace have kissed!

**ALL: 11 Truth springs up from the earth,
and righteousness smiles down from Heaven.**

READER: 13 Righteousness walks ahead of God like a herald.
Good and right living sings,
preparing a path for His arrival!

Second Reading

Romans 10:9-13

✦ 🎵 Reading Response

Page 62 LBW

ALL: Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia! Alleluia!

🎵 The Gospel, God's Good News

Page 63 LBW

PASTOR: This is the holy gospel of Matthew, the first chapter.

ALL: Glory to You, O LORD!

Matthew 1:18-24

PASTOR: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ!

Children's Sermon

Sermon "The LORD Saves"

✦ The Apostles Creed

Page 65 LBW

ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

♪ Offering "Bright and Glorious is the Sky" with Kirk Olson #075 LBW

✦ ♪ The Offering Response

Page 75 LBW

ALL: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit.

Prayers of the People

PASTOR: LORD, in Your mercy...

ALL: ...hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Page 76 LBW

ALL: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever and ever! Amen.**

Benediction

A word of blessing.

♪ Closing Hymn “As with Gladness Men of Old”

#082 LBW

Postlude

We depart in peace, ready to serve the LORD!

The Mission Statement of American Lutheran Church

Led by the Holy Spirit and strengthened by the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
we seek to make the Kingdom of God real and present in our
world through ongoing worship, witness, and service.



WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Visitors are welcome to sign our guest book in the narthex gathering area. If you are looking for a church home, please contact Pastor Ethan or talk to one of the ushers about our American Lutheran Church family!

Our current prayer list includes Joe Ayers, Deb Adamek, Dick and Jean Bonney, Everett Bullert, Elaine Clementson, Jodi Eckel, Lisa Guse, Larry Hatton, Linda Hatton, Mike Holden, Stephanie James, Kay Larson, Heather Marcyes, Joni Love, Karen Ness, Rose Thorp, Dave Young, and the family of Todd Sommers.

Today’s KEYL Radio Broadcast of our worship service is sponsored by the Variables Family Night Supper Team in honor of the saints who have gone before us. Thank you for ensuring God’s Word can reach people over the airwaves!

If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. The cost is \$75. Thank you!

Please consider signing up to serve as an usher or greeter. Sign-up sheets are on the wall in the back of the sanctuary.

Bible Readings for Next Week: January 15, 2023

Exodus 32:1-8

1 John 5:20-21

Psalms 115:1-4, 8

Matthew 2:1-3, 7-13

Sermon Title: “God With Us”

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Ethan Fearing

Keyboard: Mason Ellingson

Altar Guild: Betty Oliver

Acolyte: Katylin Saarela

Deacon: Blanche Tirk

Reader: Wanda Thompson

Ushers: Russ & Jean Jacobsen and Reilly Jacobsen



ANNOUNCEMENTS

We need helpers for taking down the Christmas decorations today after the worship service.

Our Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 29th at 11:30 a.m. There will be a “Time to Talk” at 10:15 a.m. for any questions before the annual meeting. A potblessing (potluck) dinner will follow the meeting.

Please pick up your serving dishes and pans from the kitchen. They are on the shelf next to the kitchen exterior door.

We need people to sign up for radio sponsorships for 2023. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

The January issue of The Daily Walk and December - February copies of Our Daily Bread are on the small table at the rear of the sanctuary.

If you are asked by the Nominating Committee to serve in one of our church’s elected positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Deacon, Trustee, Youth & Family committee, Board of Education, etc.) please pray about it and ask for the Lord’s guidance.

2023 offering envelopes can be picked up on the table by the bulletin board in the narthex.

If you have changed your address or phone number please call the church office and let us know. We are currently updating our church directory for 2023.

CHURCH OUTREACH

Missionaries: Dan and Nancy Butkowski; Dwight and Dorothy Hazard; Chris Mikkelson.

Prayer Partners is our confidential chain of prayer. To request a prayer, send an e-mail to prayer@americanlutheranchurch.org. If you would like your name added or removed from the Prayer Partners' e-mail list, contact Patty Ostendorf or Becky Hillig.

Our Mission Focus for January is the Long Prairie Pregnancy and Life Resource Center – Medical Clinic.

Weekly Report:

Worship Attendance for last week: 69

General Fund receipts for last week: \$5,197.00

General Fund budgeted weekly needs: \$4,521.21

General Fund Year to Date (YTD) as of 12/31/22:

Budgeted needs: \$235,103.00

Receipts: \$227,114.84

Actual expenses: \$214,607.67

As of January 1st, our 2023 YTD General Budget receipts were \$675.79 ahead of our YTD General Budget needs.

Contact Information:

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Youth & Family Coordinator, Sierra Larson; Cell: (320) 766-4153

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Church Secretary, Lori Zellmann; Office: (320) 732-2932

Office E-mail: americanlutheranchurchlp@gmail.com

Website: americanlutheranchurch.org

Facebook Page: [American Lutheran Church](#)

Sunday Worship Livestream: [on Facebook](#)

Weekly Schedule at American Lutheran Church

Sun. Jan. 8th 9:00 am **Worship Service**
10:15 am **Sunday School**
10:15 am **Take down Christmas Decorations**
7:00 pm **Bible Readers Meeting**

Tue. Jan. 10th 9:00 am **Staff Meeting**

Wed. Jan. 11th 9:30 am **Esther Circle**
5:30 pm **Family Night Supper**
6:00 pm **Quest Kids**
6:00 pm **Confirmation Class**
6:00 pm **Board of Education Meeting**
7:00 pm **Choir Practice**
8:00 pm **Church Council Meeting**

Sun. Jan. 15th 9:00 am **Worship Service with Communion**
10:15 am **Sunday School**
11:15 am **Missions Committee Meeting**

Sunday worship services are radio broadcast on KEYL 1400 AM and 103.1 FM, live-streamed on Facebook, and posted with video recordings of services later on our website.